

The decision by Sinclair Broadcasting to force their stations to air a partisan, anti-John F. Kerry documentary only days before the November, 2004 election is a clear example of abuse of the public airwaves. That Sinclair can program in such a fashion demonstrates the negative result of a combination of media consolidation and lax oversight on behalf of the F.C.C.

Sinclair's use of the public airwaves is free, and they are obligated by law to serve the public interest. Unfortunately, when large companies monopolize the airwaves, American citizens get more of what's good for the corporate bottom line versus what they need decision-making in a democracy. It has never been more important that we see substantive news on issues that matter from diverse perspectives and especially from our local communities.

Sinclair's actions demonstrate the need to strengthen media ownership rules and illustrate why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.